**THC in Maritime Transport**

**Introduction**

**In the complex world of global trade, maritime transport is one of the most crucial methods for moving goods between countries. Various costs are incurred by importers or exporters in this process, one of the most significant being port operation costs. One such cost widely used in international trade is THC, or Terminal Handling Charge. This article will provide a comprehensive review of THC, the factors affecting it, and its importance in maritime trade.**

**What is THC?**

**THC stands for Terminal Handling Charge. It refers to the fees charged by port terminals for various services provided to goods during the loading, unloading, handling, and storage processes. In simpler terms, whenever a** [**container**](https://datisdarya.com/category/containerized/) **or shipment is unloaded from or loaded onto a ship, the port terminal charges the owner of the goods for performing these operations.**

**Why is THC Paid?**

**Port terminals need significant investments to provide various services to goods, including specialized equipment, skilled labor, and necessary infrastructure. THC serves as a means to offset these costs and secure the financial resources required to maintain and develop port infrastructure.**

**Factors Affecting THC**

* **Type of Goods: The type, weight, volume, and whether the goods are hazardous or non-hazardous significantly affect the THC. Hazardous goods or those requiring special care usually incur higher costs.**
* **Volume of Goods: The volume of the transported goods also influences the THC. Larger volumes require more time and resources for port operations, leading to higher THC.**
* **Type of Equipment Used: The equipment used at port terminals impacts** [**THC**](https://dhl-freight-connections.com/en/logistics-dictionary/terminal-handling-charges-thc/#:~:text=In%20short%2C%20THC%20are%20fees,container%2C%20stacking%20and%20crane%20service.)**. Advanced and automated equipment can reduce operation time and, consequently, lower THC.**
* **Geographical Location of the Port: The port’s geographical location and labor costs in that area also affect THC. Ports in regions with high labor costs generally charge more for port services.**
* **Port Policies: The port policies of each country and tariffs set by port and maritime organizations are additional factors affecting THC.**

**Conclusion**

**THC, as a significant cost in maritime trade, plays a notable role in the overall cost of goods. A deep understanding of the factors affecting THC and the necessary actions to reduce it can help companies lower their costs and enhance their competitiveness in global markets.**